Mr. T. Narayana Menon (*Conservator of Forests*): It is so.

Mr. President: It costs more to make the supply available through the Government Agency than through the contractors.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): But we can avoid the middleman, if we are to supply direct.

LEPERS AND BEGGARS—CONGREGATION OF.

159. Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the annoyance and even danger to the public caused by the lepers and beggars collecting together in front of the Ernakulam Archbishop's House, Malabar Mail Office and the surroundings;

(*b*) has the Ernakulam Municipality done anything in the matter?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Beggars generally collect at the places specified. Government are not aware that there are lepers among them.

(*b*) Lepers found in the streets are sent to the Leper Asylum as far as accommodation admits. The Ernakulam Municipality has provided a Poor House where disabled beggars are admitted and cared for.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Has there been any serious attempt to put the Leper Act into operation in the Ernakulam Town?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): It is in force not only in Ernakulam town, but throughout the whole State.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Has the Leper Act been brought into operation throughout the whole State?

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Does it mean that all the lepers found wandering in the streets and by the side of houses, are housed in the Leper Asylum?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): It does not mean that. The attempt made is to segregate these lepers and send them to places such as Leper Asylums

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where they cannot be a nuisance and injurious to the health of the people. The cases we see here are, most of them, burnt out cases. Although these lepers are dis-figured and ugly to look at, no infection is caused by them. They are not contagious.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Is the Chief Medical Officer convinced, that there are no cases of lepers other than burnt out cases, wandering through our streets?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): I say that most of the lepers that we see are burnt out cases. There may also be cases of contagious lepers. What we generally do is we send them to the Leper Asylum as far as the accommodation there permits.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (*Jews—Nominated*): Is there any special reason for these lepers to collect before the Ernakulam Archbishop's House and before the Malabar Mail Office?

Dr A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): These are charitable institutions and they go there, because they may get something from there.

REVENUE COLLECTION ON LANDS RENDERED UNFIT FOR CULTIVATION—STOPPING OF.

160. Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon (*Kattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that on account of the heavy flood of 1099 much land in Pallur Village in Talappalli Taluk has been rendered unfit for cultivation;

(*b*) has it been brought to the notice of the Government that these are lands originally used for double crops cultivation;

(*c*) has the Government noticed that land revenue is being collected every year for these lands without any consideration to the havoc and loss caused to the ryots;

(*d*) will the Government be pleased to state whether this fact has not been brought to the notice of the Government before;

(*e*) will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter once more and stop the practice of collecting revenue from places rendered unfit for cultivation?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*):

(*a*) Only an extent of 56·54 acres was rendered unfit for cultivation

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